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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-11 FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08

TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-10 COME-00

NEA-10 AF-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01

CIEP-02 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /146 W
---------- 005263
R 172040Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2511

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0157

POUCHED TO ALL CONSULS AS INFO IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, CA
SUBJECT: ENERGY: SUPPLY SITUATION IN EASTERN CANADA

1. BOTH OTTAWA CITIZEN (JANUARY 16) AND MONTREAL GAZETTE (JANUARY 17) PROMINENTLY CARRY CANADIAN PRESS STORY OUT OF QUEBEC WHICH SERIOUSLY QUESTIONS EASTERN CANADA'S "SO-CALLED ENERGY CRISIS."

2. STORY QUOTES UNNAMED SPOKESMAN FOR QUEBEC NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AS SAYING "THE OIL COMPANIES ARE TELLING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS, THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS WITH SECURING SUPPLIES, BUT THEY'RE TELLING US THERE WILL BE ENOUGH OIL FOR QUEBEC FOR THE REST OF THE WINTER. MAYBE IT'S TIME SOMEBODY ASKED WHAT'S GOING ON." HE FURTHER SAID THAT IF ARAB STATES HAD PROCEEDED WITH PRODUCTION CUTS QUEBEC CRUDE SUPPLIES WOULD BE 20 PERCENT SHORT RIGHT NOW "AND THAT JUST ISN'T THE CASE."

3. ARTICLE REPORTS THAT SPOKESMEN FOR SIX MONTREAL REFINERIES (GULF, SHELL, TEXACO, PETROFINA, IMPERIAL
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AND BP) SAID THEIR PLANTS ARE OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY

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AND THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS OF SECURING CRUDE SUPPLIES. (GOLDEN EAGLE REFINERY, HOWEVER, WAS 30 PRECENT BELOW CAPACITY BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING LIBYAN OIL, BUT COMPANY SPOKESMAN SAID SOME OF SHORTFALL WAS BEING COVERED BY VANCOUVER SHIPMENTS OF WESTERN CANADIAN OIL.)

4. SPOKESMAN FOR UNITED OIL WORKERS OF CANADA ADDS THAT MONTREAL REFINERIES HAVE SUFFICIENT REFINED OIL IN RESERVE TO SUPPLY MONTREAL FOR 100 DAYS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE AUTOMOBILE SERVICES ASSOCIATION STATES "THERE'S NO ENERGY CRISIS IN CANADA AND THERE'S NO PROBLEM GETTING PETROLEUM SUPPLIES."

5. SPOKESMAN FOR BP CANADA ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT HIS COMPANY NOT IN POSITION IT FEARED PARTLY BECAUSE BP STILL IS RECEIVING FULL SHIPMENTS OF OIL FROM "CERTAIN" AFRICAN AND ARAB STATES WHICH MAINTAIN CANADA IS ON THEIR CUTBACK LIST.

6. TENTATIVE CONCLUSION OF PRESS STORY IS THAT QUEBEC PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THAT ON STRENGTH OF WHAT IS TERMED THE "SO-CALLED" ENERGY CRISIS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS MUSCLING INTO AREAS OF PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION WITH ITS NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY.

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
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